

MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMSClaim 3 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, which has a water retention value of greater than 6 ml/g.

Claim 4 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the sponge material is a naturally-occurring polymer.

Claim 6 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the functional groups bind DNA.

Claim 8 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the particles are 0.5 to 10 mm in size.

Claim 9 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, capable of retaining species having a

Claim 10 (Amended):

A medium according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~, wherein the sponge material is cross-linked.

Claim 11 (Amended):

A method for purifying DNA in an aqueous sample, which comprises passing the sample through a medium according to claim 1 ~~any preceding claim~~.